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Courier

FBM  
MGM-A-612

Acting Chief of Station, Karlsruhe P/H

12 July 1948

Chief, Munich Operations Base

Operational

An Interview with AVOCET at ECIC

REF : MGM-A- 610, 611

1. In accordance with ECIC's suggestion that a good man be not lost, AVOCET (see MGM-A-610), a former source of the Munich Operations Base, was interviewed by [ ] on 1 July 1948 at ECIC, Oberursel. In anticipation of AVOCET's imminent release from ECIC, the interview was intended above all to ascertain:

a. any past or present connection to intelligence agencies other than the GIB, particularly any connections with KEYSTONE;

b. any plans for active reparticipation in the intelligence field.

2. The following pertinent information was collected from AVOCET himself, since Mr. Rapp, the ECIC officer most familiar with AVOCET's case, was absent on leave:

a. At present AVOCET is working on the second half of an interrogator's manual which, all factors remaining the same, will not be finished before the end of this coming August. AVOCET expects to leave ECIC for good as soon as this manual is completed.

b. AVOCET's first connection with American Intelligence dates from August 1945. At that time [ ] contacted AVOCET at the home of former Munich source ROBOT. During the autumn of 1945, AVOCET wrote reports for [ ] (Field Comment: The MALT reports.) [ ] gave AVOCET permission to go home for Christmas with his family. On 23 December 1945, AVOCET was arrested by CIC Nurnberg at his home on the grounds of rank and position in

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SECRET

- 2 -

the GIS which placed him in the automatic arrest category. AVOCET's disposition to ECIC followed a month or so later. In ECIC during February 1946, AVOCET was invited by an unidentified American colonel to head a large agent chain to be made up of personnel which the colonel himself would select. Seeing that he would have no liberty to select his own personnel or to limit the size of the net, AVOCET turned the invitation down.

Since approximately February 1946, AVOCET has worked in ECIC as living reference and a compiler of handbooks on the RIS. According to AVOCET's own assertion, the above summary of connections with American Intelligence is complete to date.

Concerning KEYSTONE, and in particular towards Oberst BAUN, AVOCET vehemently criticized BAUN's operational methods. Furthermore AVOCET dislikes BAUN's personality. Concerning von Gehlen (?), AVOCET merely stated that the man has a good mind.

Field Comment: It will not be possible to specify exactly what the relationship was between AVOCET and KEYSTONE over the circa one-and-one-half year period when both were situated in ECIC until Mr. Rapp, or some other informed ECIC official can be questioned about the matter.

c. AVOCET feels that in the CI field lies his vocation and avocation. He desires to become active again and to handle operations directed against the RIS. To this end, however, AVOCET wants the liberty to pick his own personnel, subject to our prior approval of each candidate. His theory is that the more resourceful of his former GIS associates are at present living in complete retirement from the intelligence scene (?). AVOCET would like to recruit one or two of these former unspecified subordinates and associates, provided they have no present ties to intelligence agencies.

d. AVOCET owns a small household utensils factory in Nurnberg. He believes that unless unforeseen difficulties arise, the income from this factory will cover his personal and family living expenses. He does not expect that the factory will make much of a demand on his time.

3. [ ] has arranged to meet and reinterview AVOCET in Nurnberg one week to the day after his release from ECIC.

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